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REVIEWS AND CRITICISMS

LA IDENTIFICACION DACTILOSCOPICA. INFORME DE POLICIOLOGIA Y DE DERECHO PUBLICO. By *Fernando Ortiz*. Universal Press, Havana.

In this work the author outlines with painstaking thoroughness the different methods of identifying criminals. He reviews the earlier means which were used to this end, such as branding in the Middle Ages, and notes that Mentharn favored governmental branding of all citizens in order to facilitate the identification and to remove the infamy which had attached to this method because of its being used only upon felons.

He then reviews the different methods of anthropometric identification, especially that of Bertillon, the best known, in which, however, he finds sixteen objections:

1. That it can be applied only to individuals who have attained their full physical development.
2. That its limitation renders it useless for all men under twenty-five years of age.
3. That this prevents it applying to many delinquents.
4. That it is liable to errors.
5. That the errors lead to a loss of time.
6. That, contrary to what Bertillon thought, his measurements often fit more than one subject.
7. That old age changes the measurements.
8. That the subject can render the measurements false.
9. That it is not a proof of identity.
10. That it cannot be applied to women.
11. That it is expensive.
12. That it cannot be effectively used upon an unwilling subject.
13. That it cannot be applied to corpses.
14. That it cannot be required of accused persons before sentence.
15. That for the above reasons its field is limited.
16. That it is very difficult to use internationally.

He also outlines the otometric system of Frigerio, the craneographic system of Anfossi, the geometric system of Matheios, the ophthalmostatometric system of Capdivelle, the ophthalmoscopic system of Levinsohn, the radiographic system of Levinsohn and the systems of Tamassia, Villebrun, Merciolle Dubois and Bert y Viannay.

In Chapter 5 he takes up the history of the dactiloscopy systems, noting that they were used nearly twelve hundred years ago in Corea and a thousand years ago in China and Japan, and gives credit to William J. Herschell, the governor of Bengal, for having first adopted it, in 1858, for the identification of the Hindustani. In 1880 Gilbert Thompson used this method in Arizona, since which time many systems have been made for the use of this method of identification.

Ortiz outlines the principal systems in great detail, giving plates showing the different methods by which the different marks can be

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catalogued. He finds that dactilography has many other advantages over any other system.

1. The marks on the fingers are not alterable. If the skin is destroyed, the new skin contains the same lines as the old one, and any attempt to destroy the marks by amputation is in itself a method of identification.

2. Lines appear upon the hands before birth and do not change, as we have said. They are never the same in any two individuals.

3. This method of identification can be applied upon unwilling subjects.

4. It can be used in cases of women and children.

5. The impressions are mathematically exact and do not depend upon the acuteness of the operator. There is no room for error or tolerance.

6. Any crime in which the hand of the criminal becomes bloody or dirty, it becomes a method of criminal research.

7. It is useful in police work.

8. It can be used in cases of habitual delinquency.

9. It is not libelous, as photography is, used under the Bertillon system.

10. It can be used on corpses.

11. It can be used upon the accused before trial.

12. It is very inexpensive.

13. It can be readily internationalized.

14. It makes the creation of national registry bureaus possible.

In Chapter 14, Ortiz takes up the particular instances in which a cheap and accurate method of identification is necessary and shows its use in identifying soldiers killed in battle. He adds to his book a full appendix, in which he sets out the laws of Cuba establishing this method of identification.

While the book is highly technical and is written in such detail as to render it impossible to review in the space permitted, it nevertheless contains such general information as makes it a most interesting work to those who are not experts in dactilography or police or criminal detection.

Philadelphia.

JOHN LISLE.

DER ÖSTERREICHISCHE STRAFPROZESS MIT BERÜCKSICHTIGUNG DER RECHTSPRECHUNG DES KASSATIONSHOFES, von weiland *Dr. Friedrich Rulf*. Vierte Auflage bearbeitet von *Dr. Wenzeslaus Grafen Gleispach*. Vienna (F. Tempsky) and Leipzig (G. Freytag), 1913 pp. 362 and index.

Any law-book which has enough vitality of ideas or other qualities to perpetuate itself to a fourth edition already has something to commend it. The first edition appeared in 1884 and the third edition in 1895; and the fact that Count Gleispach after a lapse of eighteen years thought it useful to prepare a new edition of Rulf's book in a period of legislative ferment, instead of constructing a new work, adds some-